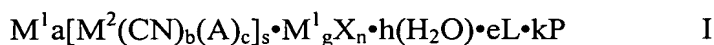


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of at least one alkoxylate comprising:

bringing into contact an alkylene oxide mixture comprising ethylene oxide with at least one starter compound in the presence of at least one double-metal cyanide compound of the formula 1:



wherein

M^1 is a metal ion selected from the group consisting of Zn^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Co^{3+} , Ni^{2+} , Mn^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Sn^{2+} , Pb^{2+} , Mo^{4+} , Mo^{6+} , Al^{3+} , V^{4+} , V^{5+} , Sr^{2+} , W^{4+} , W^{6+} , Cr^{2+} , Cr^{3+} , Cd^{2+} , Hg^{2+} , Pd^{2+} , Pt^{2+} , V^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , La^{3+} , Ce^{3+} , Ce^{4+} , Eu^{3+} , Ti^{3+} , Ti^{4+} , Ag^+ , Rh^{2+} , Rh^{3+} , Ru^{2+} , and Ru^{3+} ;

M^2 is a metal ion selected from the group consisting of Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Co^{2+} , Co^{3+} , Mn^{2+} , Mn^{3+} , V^{4+} , V^{5+} , Cr^{2+} , Cr^{3+} , Rh^{3+} , Ru^{2+} , and Ir^{3+} ;

A and X, independently of one another, are anions, each of which is selected from the group consisting of halide, hydroxide, sulfate, carbonate, cyanide, thiocyanate, isocyanate, cyanate, carboxylate, oxalate, nitrate, nitrosyl, hydrogensulfate, phosphate, dihydrogenphosphate, hydrogenphosphate or and hydrogencarbonate;

L is a water-miscible ligand selected from the group consisting of alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, ethers, polyethers, esters, polyesters, polycarbonate, ureas, amides, primary, secondary and tertiary amines, ligands with pyridine nitrogen, nitriles, sulfides, phosphides, phosphates, phosphines, phosphonates and phosphates;

k is a fraction or an integer, wherein the value of k is greater than or equal to zero;

P is at least one organic additive[[,]] selected from the group consisting of polyethers, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyalkylene glycol sorbitan esters, polyalkylene glycol glycidyl ethers, polyacrylamide, poly(acrylamide-co-acrylic acid), polyacrylic acid, poly(acrylamide-co-maleic acid), polyacrylonitrile, polyalkyl acrylates, polyalkyl methacrylates, polyvinyl methyl ether, polyvinyl ethyl ether, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, poly-N-vinylpyrrolidone, poly(N-vinylpyrrolidone-co-acrylic acid), polyvinyl methyl ketone, poly(4-vinylphenol), poly(acrylic acid-co-styrene), oxazoline polymers, polyalkyleneimines, maleic acid and maleic anhydride copolymers, hydroxyethylcellulose, polyacetates, ionic surface-active and interface-active compounds, bile acid or salts thereof, esters or amides, carboxylic esters of polyhydric alcohols, and glycosides;

a, b, c, d, g and n are chosen such that the electroneutrality of the compound I is ensured;

e is the number of ligand molecules, wherein e is a fraction or an integer, and wherein the value of e is greater than or equal to 0; and

each of f and h, independently of one another, is a fraction or an integer wherein each of f and h, independently of each other, has a value greater than or equal to 0;

wherein, during the induction phase, the sum of the inert gas partial pressure and the ethylene oxide partial pressure is 1.5 bar to 6.0 bar; and wherein the starter compound is a Guerbet alcohol.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the total pressure does not exceed 11 bar over the course of the reaction.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein:

(1) M^1 is selected from the group consisting of Zn^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Co^{3+} , Ni^{2+} , Mn^{2+} and Co^{2+} ; or

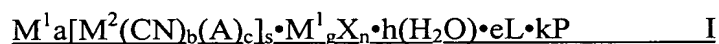
(2) M^2 is selected from the group consisting of Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , and Co^{3+} .

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein M^1 is Zn^{2+} and M^2 is Co^{3+} .

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the double-metal cyanide compound catalyst is crystalline.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~The process of claim 1~~

A process for the preparation of at least one alkoxyate comprising:
bringing into contact an alkylene oxide mixture comprising ethylene oxide with at
least one starter compound in the presence of at least one double-metal cyanide compound of
the formula 1:



wherein

M^1 is a metal ion selected from the group consisting of Zn^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Co^{3+} , Ni^{2+} , Mn^{2+} , Co^{2+} , Sn^{2+} , Pb^{2+} , Mo^{4+} , Mo^{6+} , Al^{3+} , V^{4+} , V^{5+} , Sr^{2+} , W^{4+} , W^{6+} , Cr^{2+} , Cr^{3+} , Cd^{2+} , Hg^{2+} , Pd^{2+} , Pt^{2+} , V^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , La^{3+} , Ce^{3+} , Ce^{4+} , Eu^{3+} , Ti^{3+} , Ti^{4+} , Ag^+ , Rh^{2+} , Rh^{3+} , Ru^{2+} , and Ru^{3+} ;

M^2 is a metal ion selected from the group consisting of Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Co^{2+} , Co^{3+} , Mn^{2+} , Mn^{3+} , V^{4+} , V^{5+} , Cr^{2+} , Cr^{3+} , Rh^{3+} , Ru^{2+} , and Ir^{3+} ;

A and X, independently of one another, are anions, each of which is selected from the

group consisting of halide, hydroxide, sulfate, carbonate, cyanide, thiocyanate, isocyanate, cyanate, carboxylate, oxalate, nitrate, nitrosyl, hydrogensulfate, phosphate, dihydrogenphosphate, hydrogenphosphate or and hydrogencarbonate;

L is a water-miscible lagand selected from the group consisting of alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, ethers, polyethers, esters, polyesters, polycarbonate, ureas, amides, primary, secondary and tertiary amines, ligands with pyridine nitrogen, nitriles, sulfides, phosphides, phosphates, phosphines, phosphonates and phosphates;

k is a fraction or an integer, wherein the value of k is greater than or equal to zero;

P is an organic additive,

a, b, c, d, g and n are chosen such that the electroneutrality of the compound

I is ensured;

e is the number of ligand molecules, wherein e is a fraction or an integer, and wherein the value of e is greater than or equal to 0; and

each of f and h, independently of one another, is a fraction or an integer wherein each of f and h, independently of each other, has a value greater than or equal to 0;

wherein, during the induction phase, the sum of the inert gas partial pressure and the ethylene oxide partial pressure is 1.5 bar to 6.0 bar; and wherein the starter compound is a Guerbet alcohol,

wherein the alkylene oxide mixture has an ethylene oxide fraction of more than 99%.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): An alkoxylate obtained by the process of claim 1.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein c has a value of 0.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein

(1) M^1 is selected from the group consisting of Zn^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Fe^{3+} , Co^{3+} , Ni^{2+} , Mn^{2+} and Co^{2+} ; and

(2) M^2 is selected from the group consisting of Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , and Co^{3+} .

Claim 10 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein the alkylene oxide mixture has an ethylene oxide fraction of more than 99%.

Claim 11 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein e is greater than zero.

Claim 12 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein f is greater than zero.

Claim 13 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein g is greater than zero.

Claim 14 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein k is greater than zero.

Claim 15 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein e is zero.

Claim 16 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein f is zero.

Claim 17 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein g is zero.

Claim 18 (New): The process of claim 1, wherein k is zero.